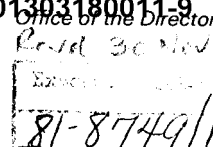


**International  
Communication  
Agency**

United States of America

Washington, D. C. 20547

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP84B00049R001303180011-9



November 24, 1981

To Bill Gates

What now?

Dear Bill:

I appreciate very much your letter of November 13. Nobody better understands than us how vital USICA exchange programs with the Soviet Union are to our national security.

Your views can be much more effectively stated to the White House. As your enclosures testify, our exchange activities are invaluable.

It is just beyond belief that this Agency has suffered fifteen years of cuts. For the price of one fighter plane we could more effectively cope with the Russians given our demonstrated return on the dollar.

I hope budgetary limitations will permit us to continue these exchange programs.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Charles Z. Wick

The Honorable  
William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20205

81-8749

13 November 1981

The Honorable Charles Z. Wick  
Director  
International Communications Agency  
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Charlie:

I certainly appreciate that, to cooperate with budget reductions, ICA needs to cut back severely on its exchange programs. But I would like to bring to your attention the importance of exchanges with the Soviet Union from the standpoint of U.S. intelligence and national security.

The need for people who know the language and societies is great. Just as important, exchange studies provide access to a closed society which would not otherwise be available. In other important countries, Americans are free to do business and travel around. In the Soviet Union, the scholar studying Ukranian poetry or Islamic philosophy may be one of the very few in a whole generation to have a sustained exposure to dissidence in the Ukraine or among Soviet Moslems. A number of our analysts in the intelligence community may have had this experience. We hope you will be able to keep alive at least a portion of these exchange programs for American students to go to the USSR.

Although they may study a subject that may not seem relevant to our security interests, after their study is completed they are often available for jobs where the fact that having lived in the USSR makes them important assets.

In case you wish to pursue this subject further, I am enclosing several pages describing the situation in greater length, together with a study performed by the Georgetown Center for Strategic Studies which elaborates how U.S. research on the USSR is a critical resource for security and commercial policy.

Yours,

  
William J. Casey

Enclosures: As stated

2265